

Serial No. 10/661,031

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Please substitute the following paragraph on page 16, lines 7-24, and substitute the following:

--Generally, the assay of the present invention may be used to carry out any binding assay or screen involving immobilization of one of the binding agents. Such solid-phase assays or screens are well known in the chemical and biochemical arts. For example, such screening may involve specific binding of cells to a molecule (e.g. an antibody or antigen) immobilized on a microbead in the assay stick followed by analysis to detect whether or to what extent binding occurs. Alternatively, the beads may subsequently removed from the assay stick for sorting and analysis via flow cytometry (see e.g. by Needels et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, Vol. 90, pp. 10700-10704, November 1993 (1993)). Examples of biological compounds that may be assayed or screened using the assay stick of the present invention include, e.g. agonists and antagonists for cell membrane receptors, toxins, venoms, viral epitopes, hormones, sugars, cofactors, peptides, enzyme substrates, drugs inclusive of opiates and steroids, proteins including antibodies, monoclonal antibodies, antisera reactive with specific antigenic determinants, nucleic acids, lectins, polysaccharides, cellular membranes and organelles. In addition, the present invention may be used in any of a large number of well-known hybridization assays where nucleic acids are immobilized on a surface of a substrate, e.g. genotyping, polymorphism detection, gene expression analysis, fingerprinting, and other methods of DNA- or RNA-based sample analysis or diagnosis.--